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## PREFACE.

**T**HE ELEMENTS of MATERIA MEDICA and PHARMACY, which I published several years ago, were principally designed to be subservient to the Course of Lectures I deliver on these branches of Medicine. Having changed the plan of these Lectures for one, which, though not perhaps preferable in itself, I consider better adapted to this mode of instruction, the republication of that elementary treatise appeared to me unnecessary, and my other engagements would not allow of my undertaking a work adapted to the new arrangements of my Course.

The demand, however, for the former treatise, since the impression of it was exhausted, has been such, as to have convinced me that the plan on which it is executed is possessed of some advantages, independent of the object I had originally in view. I have been induced, therefore, to publish, not indeed a new edition of it, but a more enlarged work on the same plan. Considering it no longer as subservient merely to my Lectures, I have endeavoured to render it more complete in itself, so as to form a concise System of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, which, without including the minute details,

shall embrace the principles and the more important facts connected with these departments of medical study.

Under the classes of the *Materia Medica*, I have placed those articles only which are employed in modern practice, without taking any notice of the numerous inert substances which an undue regard to the authority of antiquity has too long retained in publications of this kind. The *Pharmacopœia* of the Edinburgh College I have taken as the basis of the pharmaceutical part of the work, having given a translation of its processes, while I have also introduced whatever preparations of importance are peculiar to the London and Dublin *Pharmacopœias*. And I have added those corrections in the principles and processes of Pharmacy, which the recent discoveries in Chemistry have rendered necessary.

To the history of the articles of the *Materia Medica*, I have annexed, at the end of the first volume, a view of that arrangement in which they are classed, according to their natural affinities. This, besides affording a contrast with the classification of these substances according to their medicinal powers, will be of some advantage to those attending my Lectures, and enable them to derive more assistance from the present publication as a text book, as it presents an Outline of the arrangement of the Course.

EDINBURGH, }  
25th July 1810. }